



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

September 24, 2019

Dear School Superintendent:

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is sending a reminder to all school districts statewide regarding Tuberculosis (TB) screening. The recommendation for screening all school employees for TB was discontinued by ADH several years ago. The following recommendation is current and aligns with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Recommendation:

The ADH does not recommend routine screening of TB in low-risk populations. Employees of schools are generally considered a low-risk group. Screening low-risk populations sometimes results in false-positives, which can lead to unnecessary worry and treatment.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Naveen Patil

Naveen Patil, MD, MHSA, MA, FACP, FIDSA

State TB Control Officer

Medical Director

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Arkansas Department of Health

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